

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, NEW JERSEY
DAN BURTON, INDIANA
ELTON GALLEGLY, CALIFORNIA
DANA ROHRBACH, CALIFORNIA
DONALD A. MANZULLO, ILLINOIS
EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA
STEVE CHABOT, OHIO
RON PAUL, TEXAS
MIKE PENCE, INDIANA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA
JEFF FORTENBERRY, NEBRASKA
MICHAEL T. MCCAUL, TEXAS
TED POE, TEXAS
GUS M. BILIRAKIS, FLORIDA
JEAN SCHMIDT, OHIO
BILL JOHNSON, OHIO
DAVID RIVERA, FLORIDA
MIKE KELLY, PENNSYLVANIA
TIM GRIFFIN, ARKANSAS
TOM MARINO, PENNSYLVANIA
JEFF DUNCAN, SOUTH CAROLINA
ANN MARIE BUECKLE, NEW YORK
RENEE ELLMERS, NORTH CAROLINA

YLEEM D.S. POBLETE
STAFF DIRECTOR



One Hundred Twelfth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.hcfa.house.gov

HOWARD L. BERMAN, CALIFORNIA
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

GARY L. ACKERMAN, NEW YORK
ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AMERICAN SAMOA
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY
BRAD SHERMAN, CALIFORNIA
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK
RUSS CARNAHAN, MISSOURI
ALBIO SIRE, NEW JERSEY
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
THEODORE E. DEUTCH, FLORIDA
DENNIS CARDOZA, CALIFORNIA
BEN CHANDLER, KENTUCKY
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
ALLYSON SCHWARTZ, PENNSYLVANIA
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
FREDERICA WILSON, FLORIDA
KAREN BASS, CALIFORNIA
WILLIAM KEATING, MASSACHUSETTS
DAVID CICILLINE, RHODE ISLAND

RICHARD J. KESSLER
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

July 9, 2012

The Honorable Willy Telavi
Prime Minister of Tuvalu
c/o The Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations
800 2nd Avenue, Suite 400-D
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

It is my understanding that the Government of Tuvalu has permitted the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) to reflag as many as 22 vessels under the Tuvalu ship registry, allowing them to remain under NITC ownership and continuing to transport Iran's crude oil exports. This has the effect of assisting the Iranian regime in evading U.S. and EU sanctions and generating additional revenues for its nuclear weapons program and its support for international terrorism.

It would be profoundly disappointing to me if your government has acted in contravention of the broad international coalition that is working together to use peaceful means, including economic sanctions, to change the threatening behavior of the Iranian regime.

I respectfully request that your government cancel the registry of all NITC vessels. Given the close and cooperative relationship that our two governments now enjoy, it would be unfortunate if this action were permitted to stand.

It would be preferable that Tuvalu take this action of its own accord. However, your government should take note of President Obama's Executive Order 13608, signed May 1, 2012, which provides for the imposition of sanctions on any entity worldwide, including foreign governments, that assists Iran in evading U.S. sanctions. In my view, reflagging Iranian oil tankers falls within the scope of sanctionable activity under that Executive Order.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter and urge your government to cancel the registry of all NITC vessels as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


HOWARD L. BERMAN
Ranking Member